



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR INFORMATION CALL:
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TOM LANTOS ANNOUNCES \$860,000 GRANT TO PROTECT PART OF SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN

***Funds Will Help Protect Endangered Species and Native
American Cultural Site***

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today announced a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant of \$860,000 to purchase 26 acres on San Bruno Mountain to protect an endangered species habitat and an ancient cultural site.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have received this extremely important and needed grant," said Congressman Lantos. "The preservation of this habitat helps to ensure the survival of endangered species and natural environment that constitute the beauty and grandeur that is California. It is a victory for all those who work to protect our natural resources." Last April Congressman Lantos urged Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to support this grant because of its importance to the preservation of the San Bruno Mountain area.

The acquisition of the San Bruno Mountain Preservation Parcel by the California Department of Fish and Game will preserve the federally endangered Callippe silverspot butterfly, and offers a potential recovery site for the mission blue and San Bruno elfin butterflies. San Bruno Mountain is the largest remaining tract of natural habitat for these butterflies on the northern San Francisco peninsula. Additionally, this site contains one of the largest and oldest Native American shell mounds in the Bay Area created by the Costanoan/Ohlone Indians beginning in approximately 3,200 B.C.

San Bruno Mountain boasts 3,600 acres of wildlife in a highly urbanized area, flanked by the communities of Daly City, Brisbane, and South San Francisco. San Bruno Mountain offers an isolation that has resulted in a mosaic of habitat conditions. The mountain is home to the endangered butterflies, as well as a remarkable number of rare and endangered plants.

Funding for this grant supports conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitats for threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species. Congress established the grants administered through the Department of Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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